of parts, component and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones at zero custom duty. As this is a delicensed sector, market forces and economy of scale will decide local cellular handset manufacturing.

Investment in this area is governed by the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy the government. 100% FDI is allowed in the telecom equipment manufacturing sector under automatic route.

Community Information Centres

1579. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress made in setting up of Community Information Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target fixed in this regard has been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.U. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) The Department of Information Technology has implemented a project for setting up of 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at Block Headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim using Information Technology to accelerate socio-economic development of the region.

This project does not envisage setting up of CISs in other parts of the country.

Virus wrecked havoc on Internet

1580. PROF. N. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the virus wrecked havoc on the Internet in India in the fag end of January, 2003;

(b) the efforts taken so far by his Ministry to avert such incidents in future; and